



Mayoral Candidate: Marianne Meed-Ward

Question 1	<p>If elected, will you commit to the protection of Burlington greenspace and Halton farmland, including opposing the construction of Highway 413, and prioritizing the establishment of complete, 15-minute communities in your ward/throughout the city?</p>
Response:	<p>Yes. These items are official Burlington and Regional positions. Burlington City Council passed a resolution April 19 opposing Highway 413. Halton Regional Council also approved a resolution opposing Highway 413. All Burlington councillors and the mayor sit on Halton Regional Council. I co-sponsored a motion, that was approved by Halton Regional Council, to protect 5000 acres of farmland from development and ensure future development is within existing built boundaries.</p> <p>I am firmly committed to protecting existing greenspace and adding more through securing private greenspace (for example, with our recent purchase of Lion's Club park downtown), securing ownership of LaSalle Park (currently own by Hamilton) buying surplus school sites to preserve their greenspace (as we did with the purchase of Robert Bateman HS) and adding new parks to major new developments at our three GO stations, and elsewhere throughout the city.</p>
Question 2a	<p>Transportation is the largest source of carbon emissions in Burlington, and currently accounts for over 40% of total emissions. Reducing emissions from this sector is an essential step to reach Burlington's goal of community carbon neutrality by 2050. If elected:</p> <p>A) Will you support the changes and funding investments required to boost public transit ridership (e.g. purchase more (electric) buses; enhance frequency, range, reliability, density & directness) to make public transit an appealing and effective option in Burlington?</p>
Response:	<p>Yes. Prior to COVID, city ridership was up 16% due to moving to a grid system, increasing frequency to 15 minutes on high-use routes, making transit free for seniors (off peak hours), students 12 and under, and low</p>

	<p>income residents who qualify for the SPLIT pass. I'm committed to exploring free transit for all high school students. We have added more bus shelters, included heated shelters, to make transit more comfortable; all our buses are fully accessible; we offer an 'on demand' stop system at night to reduce walk times between stops. I support our 10year capital plan for transit which will invest millions more in transit and add more buses for both conventional and specialized transit We expect to begin transitioning our fleet to electric buses as soon as 2024.</p>
Question 2b	<p>What specific actions will you take to make active transportation (cycling, walking, ...) an appealing and effective option in Burlington?</p>
Response:	<p>I support implementation of the city's recently approved Integrated Mobility Plan, which has a multi-modal plan for improving all modes of transportation. A good example of this in action - and a template for the future - is the reconstruction of Plains Rd. East, with protected bike lanes, transit shelters, widened sidewalks at intersections for faster crossing for pedestrians. Some other steps we have and will continue to take include: adding more pedestrian crossovers, reducing speed limits in residential areas, adding to our cycling network, both on and off road, and investing in speed cameras as part of our 2023 budget to slow down traffic. We have, and will continue to invest more in snow clearing of sidewalks, bike paths, paths leading to schools, to make walking to school, work or elsewhere easier and safer.</p>
Question 2c	<p>Will you support opportunities to increase and prioritize public EV chargers to ensure equitable distribution on City property across the community and with consideration of accessible design standards?</p>
Response:	<p>Yes. The City of Burlington has become a leader in EV chargers, with the highest per capita distribution of EV chargers in Ontario. We continue to invest in more EV chargers at parking lots at community centres, parks and the downtown. And as part of our sustainable development guidelines we encourage EV chargers (as well a bike storage lockers) in new developments.</p>
Question 3	<p>We are facing a sixth mass extinction event. Biodiversity is critical for climate mitigation/adaptation and local accessible nature is vital for mental and physical well-being, but Burlington does not have a biodiversity action plan. If elected, will you champion the creation of a biodiversity action plan within the next 4 years and advocate for the resources/budget to initiate its implementation?</p>
Response:	<p>Yes. I am open to learning more about what would be involved in the creation of a biodiversity action plan. We do have a number of initiatives already that support bio-diversity in our city, including our Private Tree Bylaw, Public Tree Bylaw, and environmental considerations that are front and centre of new developments - including impact on species, wildlife, creeks and other parts of our natural environment. Some of the jurisdiction for bio-diversity protection lies with provincial ministries (Environment/Natural Resources) and we can play a role in advocacy, for example around Species at Risk. I also sit on the board of Conservation Halton, and in that role we oversee implementation of legislation and decisions that protect bio-diversity.</p>
Question 4	<p>If elected, will you actively demonstrate your support for the Reform Gravel Mining Coalition push for a temporary moratorium on new grave mining applications in Ontario, by supporting a pause on all new and expanded quarry permits in Burlington?</p>

<p>Response:</p>	<p>Yes. A moratorium would only apply to new applications that haven't been received yet. Burlington has two major quarries, Aldershot and Nelson There is an active application for expansion at the Nelson Quarry, and a moratorium wouldn't be retroactive. That process is underway and will continue. The application has been appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal for a decision, and they will make the final decision. The city will attend to advocate for the best interests of our community.</p> <p>I'm very disappointed Nelson bypassed local and regional councils, and the Joint Agency Review Team process, and appealed to the OLT. (I also believe the OLT should be abolished as undemocratic and biased toward development, and brought a resolution to Regional Council in 2019 to advocate for abolishment. that was unanimously approved and remains as the official Regional Council position on the OLT.) I also sit as a board member of the Top Aggregate Producing Municipalities of Ontario, and in that capacity we advocate for better oversight and fairness for municipalities that have quarries in our borders.</p>
<p>Question 5</p>	<p>Climate Change is worsening existing inequities and putting marginalized community members at increased risk of harm if mitigation and adaptation efforts are not carefully planned (see Health in a Changing Climate report).</p> <p>If elected, will you champion the effective integration of measures such as vulnerability and equity impact assessments into city plans and processes to prevent avoidable harm to marginalized Burlington residents, and encourage other members of council to support this as a top priority?</p>
<p>Response:</p>	<p>Yes. I am open to working with staff, council and the community to consider what assessments would be needed, what they might look like and how they would best be implemented into overall plans in Burlington.</p>
<p>Question 6</p>	<p>Please share some of the actions you personally take to minimize your environmental footprint:</p>
<p>Response:</p>	<p>In 2008 we downsized significantly to have a smaller footprint for our home, and moved downtown to enjoy a walkable life, with better access to transit than our previous neighbourhood. I drive a hybrid electric vehicle, and rarely need to use gas. We recycle, reuse, and reduce our waste, and patronize shops that are environmentally conscious, including buying locally sourced products. I walk to work, carpool to events whenever possible, and take transit when feasible.</p>